



April 2020 Newsletter

Mayor's Message



I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy and well. I think it is safe to say this past month has been among some of the most tumultuous and emotional that any of us can remember in our lifetimes. The effects of the coronavirus outbreak have been felt by people, companies and communities, all around the world. The reaction to this crisis has been telling both in how we as a society have responded to the challenges as well as who we are as people. There are so many different opinions about what we should and should not do in this current environment but I think at the end of the day we have to accept total

responsibility for our own actions. Whether you choose to shelter in place or you choose to go for a walk around Mountain Park just make good choices and you will be the better for it.

Because there is a world of needs that are getting harder to meet the City of Mountain Park has decided to partner with the Red Cross and use our community building for a much needed blood drive. This will take place in near future with very stringent protocols in place to ensure the donors and staff's safety during the blood drive. Information for when and how to schedule a specific appointment for your donations will be sent out in when specific dates are determined. If you are not comfortable or considered high risk and would like to make a financial donation instead we will include that information as well.

The city council will continue using internet meeting software for all future government meetings until further notice. Meeting information will be sent out and/or posted on the city's web site regarding how to participate.

The Governor, Fulton County Board of Health, City of Mountain Park as well as other North Fulton cities, have now issued "shelter in place" declarations. Ours includes a curfew from 9:00 pm to 6:00 am so stay home unless you absolutely need to get out and stay healthy knowing, like all of our challenges before, this will pass.

Jim Still-Mayor

Local Emergency Declared for Mountain Park

That the applicable local emergency operations plan is hereby activated and City staff shall cooperate with the Centers for Disease Control, Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency and the Fulton and Cherokee County emergency management agencies to combat the COVID-19 coronavirus and provide for the public welfare of the citizens of Mountain Park;

That the following sections of the City of Mountain Park Code be implemented:

Section 28-7 of the City Code is hereby implemented. The Administrative Order of the District Health Director for the Fulton County Board of Health dated March 31st, 2020 shall be in effect throughout the City of Mountain Park except as expressly provided in this document. Specifically:

- A. The public property of the City, including, but not limited to, the City Park, pavilion, civic building, city hall and pool, is closed to public gatherings. While the park shall remain open for use by citizens, activities involving groups of larger than 10 people are prohibited. Further, citizens using the park must engage in safe social distancing practices, including maintaining 6 feet of separation.**
- B. City hall shall remain operational, but shall generally be closed to access. Citizens wishing to access City Hall should call to make arrangements, which where possible should be conducted by phone or electronically.**
- C. Nothing in this declaration shall prevent the use of public facilities for activities necessary and appropriate to combat this emergency. Such uses must be pre-approved by the Mayor or City Administrator.**
- D. All residents are commanded to stay at their place of residence. All individuals are permitted to leave their places of residence only to provide or receive certain essential services or engage in certain essential activities and work for essential businesses and essential governmental functions, as defined by the Administrative Order to Shelter in Place issued by Fulton County Board of Health.**
- E. A curfew is imposed from 9pm to 6am, except for essential activities as defined by the Administrative Order to Shelter in Place issued by Fulton County Board of Health, but not including outdoor activity and exercise, which should not occur on public property or rights-of-way during curfew hours.**

This declaration of emergency shall be effective at 12:00 P.M. on April 2, 2020 and shall remain in effect for 30 days, unless expressly extended or terminated.

See link to [Administrative Order of the District Health Director for the Fulton County Board of Health.](#)



MPVFR NEWS



Mountain Park family and friends

These are trying times for all of us. The rhythms of our daily lives have been thrown off, and we are *all* feeling it. Social quarantines, disruptions to schools and childcare, newfound financial insecurities, health concerns for ourselves and those we love, the list can go on. So, in the midst of this unfamiliar trial, I wanted to take a moment to encourage us all to lean in together and support each other. We *will* see our way through this time, as a community and more-so as a family.

Mountain Park Volunteer Fire Rescue would like to take a moment to thank our community for the outpouring of love and support during this challenging time. Please take comfort in knowing that your local firefighters are taking every precaution necessary to protect you and your family from the spread of this virus. During this time, staffing levels have increased down at the station. You may notice that on all medical emergencies, responders are wearing masks, gloves, goggles, and in some cases, gowns. If at all possible and safe to do so, we are asking that our patients meet us at their door. This not only prevents a large group of responders potentially contaminating the inside of your home, but it reduces the risk significantly of the spread of any potential virus. We can't thank our community enough for the kind words, positive feedback on our social media pages, friendly waves, and donated meals to the station. Our family sticks together in the good times and the bad. If there is anything that our department can do to help out our neighbors, please contact City Hall or the fire station. We have firefighters, local business, and families that have all reached out asking for ways to help our neighbors. If you or somebody you know is in need, please contact us.

At this point, we recommend keeping up with the CDC guidelines and suggestions that are updated *daily* on their website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

To that end: *let's check in with each other* and be willing to reach out if you need help with anything, be it a practical need or otherwise.

Sincerely,
Chad Miller
Captain | Chaplain
Mountain Park Volunteer Fire Rescue

Civic Club News



Hello!! From the Mountain Park Civic Club. Hope you are all well and coping with our current situation. I can't help thinking how blessed we are to be "stuck" in such a beautiful place with people who care for each other.

Because of our orders to restrict our contact with others, **We will not be holding our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Green** that we had announced earlier. It looks

like **We also will not be able Celebrate Earth Day Together** in April as planned.

Perhaps we can muster our creativity and figure out ways to help our environment and share information in individual ways. If you have ideas contact Carol Silver at karolvette@yahoo.com

We will not be holding our regular Civic Club Meeting in April and if it looks like we will still be "Sheltering at home" in May, we will look into using a zoom meeting format, or something similar, for a meeting.



2020 Census is going on now!

How to Respond

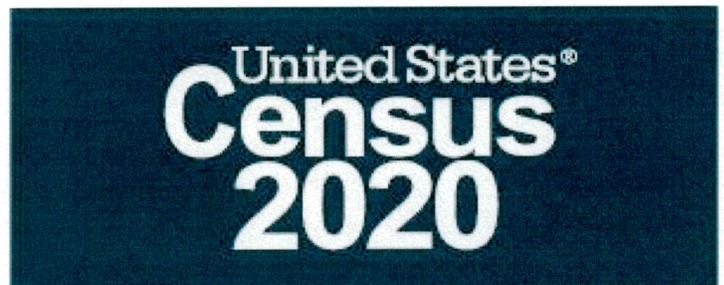
The 2020 Census will ask a few simple questions about you and everyone who is or will be living with you on April 1, 2020. For the first time, you can choose to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. Find out more about each of these methods below:

- [Online Response Guide](#)
- [Phone Response Guide](#)
- [Paper \(Mail\) Response Guide](#)

Please note that if you are responding online, you must complete the census in one sitting, as you don't have the ability to save your progress. [See the questions the census asks here.](#) If you do not receive an invitation to respond from the Census Bureau, you may respond online or visit the [Contact Us page](#) to call the phone line, which is available in 13 different languages.

It's important that you respond to the census. Census takers will visit if you don't respond online, by phone or by mail. Census takers will visit households to help you respond, if you haven't already done so through one of the three options. If a census taker knocks on your door, please cooperate. Your community needs your response. Mountain Park's current response rate is 44.8%.

Help us ensure an accurate count.



Learn more at 2020census.gov.

Business and Community Leaders Visit State Delegation during GNFCC Day at the Capitol

The Greater North Fulton Chamber assembled a group of more than 50 business and community leaders to attend this year's GNFCC Day at the Capitol sponsored by the North Fulton CID and Axis Companies. The group met with North Fulton County senators and representatives on Wednesday, February 26th to discuss legislative priorities for the community. This was the largest Day at the Capitol to date for the Chamber including Mayors from Alpharetta, Milton and Mountain Park, representing the interests of our community.

During the visit, the group was photographed with Governor Kemp and Chamber Chairs were invited to the Senate floor for a Senate proclamation and photo with the Lieutenant Governor. The group met with Secretary of State Raffensperger regarding the new voting process, as well as meeting with members of its legislative delegation including Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones, Senators Albers and Beach and Representatives Jones, Kausche, Martin and Robichaux.

"The Greater North Fulton Chamber is very appreciative of the community and business leaders who took time away from their business to promote our community needs to elected officials at the State Capitol," said Alan Najjar, GNFCC Chairman of the Board.

The Chamber Government Affairs Committee organizes the annual GNFCC Day at the Capitol as well as the GNFCC Legislative Agenda which can be found on the Chamber website at www.gnfcc.com.

The Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce (GNFCC), North Fulton's only regional Chamber serving the cities of Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell and Sandy Springs.



RAFFENSPERGER TAKES UNPRECEDENTED STEPS TO PROTECT SAFETY AND VOTER INTEGRITY IN GEORGIA

(ATLANTA) -- Secretary of State Raffensperger is taking unprecedented steps to protect the public health of Georgia voters while also upholding the integrity of the vote. These temporary steps are being made because of the COVID-19 pandemic threatening public health in Georgia and around the world.

Secretary Raffensperger will be mailing absentee ballot request forms to every Georgia voter. This extraordinary effort to ensure all Georgians can vote without fear for their health will supplement extra measures to ensure those who rely on in-person voting to access the ballot can do so safely.

"Times of turbulence and upheaval like the one we Georgians face require decisive action if the liberties we hold so dear are to be preserved," said Raffensperger. "I am acting today because the people of Georgia, from the earliest settlers to heroes like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Congressman John Lewis, have fought too long and too hard for their right to vote to have it curtailed. Georgia has faced challenges before and overcome them, and we can do so again through the grit and ingenuity that has made America a shining example for democracies around the world."

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger is moving to increase Georgia voter access and protect the public health of voters and poll workers during the COVID-19 emergency through increased mail in voting. In the 2016 and 2018 November elections, around 95 percent of Georgia voters opted to cast their ballot in person versus the 5 percent who did so by mail. With social distancing as the most important tool for limiting the spread of coronavirus, providing alternatives to voting in person is crucial. All Georgia voters can request and vote an absentee ballot for any reason.

Raffensperger will send absentee ballot request forms to the Georgia's 6.9 million voters in an effort to allow as many Georgia voters as possible to exercise their right to vote without leaving their homes. In doing so, Raffensperger will literally be dropping a way to vote in safety and security on each Georgia voter's doorstep. They will simply have to fill out and return the application to vote by mail in the upcoming elections with no in-person risk of exposure to COVID-19. Georgia's most vulnerable, those over age 65 and those with a disability, can request absentee ballots for the primary and general election as well as all elections through the 2020 election cycle with this one application. Other voters will need to submit another application for future elections. The elderly and disabled will be able to vote in safety and security.

While Secretary Raffensperger is encouraging as many voters as possible to vote by mail, some rely on in-person voting to exercise their right to vote privately and securely. People without internet or mail access, such as those experiencing homelessness; Georgians who need language assistance; and people with disabilities who rely on voting machines to cast their ballot will still be able to do so in person on the state's new voting system. Additionally, research from the Brennan Center for Justice at the NYU School of Law shows that eliminating "in-person voting could disproportionately disenfranchise Black, Latino, and young voters". Their right to vote too needs protection.

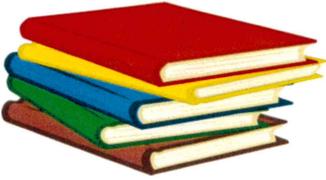
To that end, Raffensperger is taking extra steps to limit the threat of COVID-19 at the polling place. Poll workers will receive additional resources to clean the equipment regularly. In-person voters who show up to vote in person will be instructed to maintain a safe distance when waiting to vote.

These measures will protect poll workers as well. Understanding the extra risk Georgia's generally elderly poll workers face, Raffensperger is working to help counties hire more and younger poll workers. Extra staff will allow those who feel sick to be absent from the polls without significantly impacting continuity while a younger pool of workers will increase resiliency in the face of the COVID-19 threat.

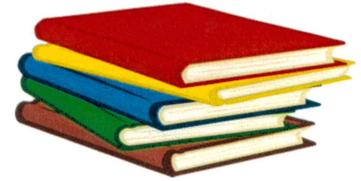
Senate President Pro Tempore Butch Miller commended Raffensperger for taking initiative to safeguard health and preserve voter access.

"I want to applaud Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and his office for taking decisive measures in this time of crisis," Miller said. "These steps are critical in this temporary environment to protect our poll workers and give our counties time to successfully plan for the Georgia General Primary in May. Make no mistake about it, the members of the majority caucus and I remain committed to keep the General Primary on May 19th."

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger is taking these unprecedented actions for the safety and security of Georgia's voters. Through these decisive steps, Raffensperger is protecting public health and the right to vote in Georgia.



Know Your City Code



The City of Mountain Park has an outdoor burning ban in place at all times.

Sec. 30-35. - Outdoor burning ban.

- (a) The fire chief, upon the advice and consent of council, may issue an outdoor burning ban.
- (b) After an outdoor burning ban has been enacted, said ban shall continue until such time as a majority affirmative vote of the mayor and city council ends the ban.
- (c) The outdoor burning ban shall apply to all areas within the geographic limits of the city, whether located in Cherokee or Fulton counties.
- (d) Notwithstanding the provisions contained herein, any county issued or state issued outdoor burning ban affecting property within the geographic limits of the City of Mountain Park shall supersede the city imposed ban.
- (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an outdoor cooking fire, provided that the cooking fire is contained in a properly constructed fire pit, grill or fireplace and that the cooking fire is attended by a competent adult in possession of a readily accessible and adequate means of extinguishment. For purposes of this section a functioning garden hose of such length to encircle the cooking fire and located within 50 feet of the cooking fire shall be considered an adequate means of extinguishment.

ARTICLE IV. - STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING

Sec. 58-125. - Prohibited vehicle parking.

- (a) Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer, no person shall:
 - (1) Park a vehicle, except temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading of property or passengers, in an acceleration or deceleration lane;
 - (2) Park a vehicle overnight in a cul-de-sac located in a residential district;
 - (3) Park a vehicle on an unpaved surface in the front yard of a residence or the side yard, if the side yard faces the street. For the purposes of this section, the term "paved driveway" means a driveway surfaced with either asphalt, concrete, gravel, brick or other approved material. Natural materials, such as, but not limited to, wood chips, stones, crushed seashells and mulch, may also be used as paving, provided that such material is contained on three sides by secured landscape timbers or finished masonry and is of a depth sufficient to prevent exposed soil and/or erosion. In all cases, the property owner shall be responsible for maintaining the driveways and parking areas of a residence in such a manner as to prevent any of the surfacing materials from crossing the property boundaries or entering the rights-of-way, roads and streets, streams, lakes or waterways of the city; or
 - (4) Park a vehicle in the city rights-of-way or in such a manner as to encroach on the paved or unpaved streets of the city.

Sec. 58-126. - Restricted vehicle parking.

- (a) Within the residential districts of the city, ordinary passenger vehicles and noncommercial pickup trucks may be parked within a garage, carport or accessory structure or on a paved driveway providing ingress and egress to a residential lot on which an occupied dwelling exists, provided that such activity shall be in compliance with the other provisions of this Code, particularly related to, but not limited to, land use, zoning, building regulations, home occupations and nuisances. For the purposes of this section, the term "paved driveway" means a driveway surfaced with either asphalt, concrete, gravel, brick or other approved material. Natural materials, such as, but not limited to, wood chips, stones, crushed seashells and mulch may also be used as paving, provided that such material is contained on three sides by secured landscape timbers or finished masonry and is of a depth sufficient to prevent exposed soil and/or erosion. In all cases, the property owner shall be responsible for maintaining the driveways and parking areas of a residence in such a manner as to prevent any of the surfacing materials from crossing the property boundaries or entering the rights-of-way of roads and streets, streams, lakes or waterways of the city.
- (b) Within any residential district of the city, no person shall cause the regular parking or storage of any business vehicle other than a pickup or panel truck used to provide daily transportation to and from work or used in connection with a properly licensed home occupation, provided that any such vehicle has a manufacturer's, published carrying capacity not in excess of one ton.
- (c) No person shall cause to be parked within the residential districts of the city on a regular, ongoing or continuous basis any equipment trailers or wheeled or tracked equipment or vehicles not typically used in connection with normal household activities or those prohibited by the provisions of this section.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 1st.....Siren Testing @ 12pm

April 4th.....Dumpster Day 7am-10am

1. Must provide proof of residence in the City of Mountain Park.
2. ONE TRUCKLOAD OR TRAILER LOAD PER RESIDENCE.
3. All yard debris must be cut into 3 feet sections or less.

Please note that this is a service provided by Waste Pro as a courtesy and the City of Mountain Park does not have any control over what time they arrive/depart or the rate which the dumpster fills and the amount it can hold. Please plan accordingly. Thank you!

April 10th.....City Hall Closed

****REMINDER****

Water bills are due by the last day of every month. Please use the drop box at City Hall or pay online at https://mtnpark.secure.munibilling.com/customers/sign_in. Payments received on the 1st of the month or later will be assessed a \$25 late fee. PayPal payments are no longer an option for paying your utility bill.

****REMINDER****

Trash and recycle pick-up is now on Wednesday. Please ensure you put your cans out the night before after 6pm or by 7am on Wednesday and leave them at the curb until they are picked up. Please remove your cans from the curb by 8am on Thursday. If your trash or recycle pick-up is missed please e-mail City Hall at utilitybilling@mountainparkgov.com or call City Hall at 770-993-4231 on Thursday morning to report it.

****REMINDER****

If you see a street light out in the City of Mountain Park please contact City Hall at 770-993-4231 to report it.

The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America - 15 Days to Slow the Spread

The White House has released the following guidelines on March 16, 2020:

1. Listen to and follow the directions of your state and local authorities.
2. If you feel sick, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
3. If your children are sick, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.*
4. If someone in your household has tested positive for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.
5. If you are an older person, stay home and away from other people.**
6. If you are a person with a serious underlying health condition that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.
7. Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to stop the spread of the coronavirus:
 - a. Work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible.
 - b. If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.
 - c. Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.***
 - d. Avoid eating or drinking in bars, restaurants, and food courts – use drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options.
 - e. Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits.
 - f. Do not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
8. Practice good hygiene:
 - a. Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
 - b. Avoid touching your face.
 - c. Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
 - d. Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

* School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

** Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

*** In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

2020 Census FAQ

What is the census?

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future.

What's in it for me?



Your responses inform where over \$675 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.



Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future.



Responding also fulfills your civic duty because it's mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



Your responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Is my information safe?

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

When can I respond to the census?

In early 2020, every household in America will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that have yet to respond.

What will I be asked?

You will be asked a few simple questions, like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children.

What won't be asked?

The census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

**Shape
your future
START HERE >**

**United States[®]
Census
2020**

Programs Influenced by U.S. Census Bureau Data

The 2020 Census can help shape the future of your community. Your responses inform how the following programs are funded every year.

The programs listed below are examples from the "Uses of Census Bureau Data in Federal Funds Distribution"* report, which provides estimates of the federal funds distributed each year in whole or in part using 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data.



Community Support

Section 8 Housing Assistance
Payment Programs



Family Services

Child Abuse and Neglect
State Grants



Education

Head Start



Food Assistance

Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program (SNAP)



Employment

Unemployment Insurance



Healthcare

Medical Assistance
Program (Medicaid)



Entrepreneurship

Small Business
Development Centers



Infrastructure

Highway Planning
and Construction



Environment

State Wildlife Grants



Public Safety

Assistance to
Firefighters Grant

Connect with us:

@uscensusbureau

For more information:

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2020**

*<https://www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2017/decennial/census-data-federal-funds.html>